

VIA: AIR
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. NRCA-1652

~~SECRET~~
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, NEA

DATE 20 November 1953

FROM : Chief of ☐

INFO: Chief ☐

SUBJECT: GENERAL— OPERATIONAL/INTEL/SHAM/OBOPUS

SPECIFIC— Report from ☐ on the capture of Captain Zejnel SHEHI and his team.

REF: a. DIR 26874, dated 14 November 1953
b. ISTA 608, dated 17 November 1953

1. Attached hereto is a translation of a report delivered by ☐ to ☐ on the information supplied by Mr. Yusuf BICAKU on the capture of Captain Zejnel SHEHI and his team in Albania.
2. Additional details will be secured from source as soon as possible.

Enclosure:

Report from ☐

17 November 1953

Distribution:

- 5 - Headquarters w/encl, 1 copy
- 1 - ☐ w/encl, 1 copy
- 2 - Files w/encl, 1 copy

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10 November 1953

On 5 July 1953 I received a letter from Col H. SELMANI in which he informed me that of late there had been no news of Captain Zejnel SHEHI, Captain Halil BRANICA, and Hadji DJULI, who were sent across the Greek border into Albania with a special mission during the winter of 1952. He asked me to do what I could in order to determine their present position.

I prepared one of our men, Yusuf BICAKU, and sent him to Yugoslavia. His mission was to go to Debar, where we have our friends, and if he were unable to learn anything of Zejnel in Debar, he was to enter Albania illegally and make inquiries there concerning what happened to Zejnel and his comrades.

Yusuf BICAKU reached Debar on 18 October 1953, and there he met our friend Uke CAMI, a good nationalist from PSHKOPIJA, who now lives in Debar, Yugoslavia, as an Albanian political emigre. Uke CAMI is married to Captain Zejnel SHEHI's sister. They made inquiries and received reliable information that in the month of August 1953, a relative of Zejnel SHEHI, whose name is Myslim SHEHU, betrayed Zejnel, with the result that the Albanian police captured Zejnel and his three comrades together with two radio transmitters. Zejnel is now imprisoned in the Ministry of Interior, and the Minister, General Mehmet SHEHU, is himself conducting the investigation of Zejnel's group.

Uke CAMI's informants stated that Mehmet SHEHU is even now sending out deception messages with the aid of the radio and ciphers which they have captured with Zejnel. It is thus necessary to draw the attention of the interested American authorities to this matter in order that they may not be deceived by these false radio messages.

The same informants stated that another group of Albanian nationalists under the command of Shahin PRENTHI, which entered Albania from Greece, was obliged to surrender to the Yugoslav authorities after many encounters with Albanian army patrols. In the beginning of September 1953 they were brought to Skoplje and remained for several days at the Hotel Makedonja. After that the Yugoslav authorities interned them at an unknown place, and until now, no one has been able to determine anything concerning their fate.

During his stay in Debar, Yusuf BICAKU was interrogated a number of times by the garrison commander, Col TRIFUN. The Colonel asked whether the British and Americans are sending their agents from Turkey into Yugoslavia. Yusuf replied that he knew nothing about such matters. Then the Colonel asked Yusuf to interest himself in these things when he returned to Istanbul and asked him to inform Col TRIFUN of anything positive that he might learn. However, the Colonel asked Yusuf not to write, but to visit Skoplje personally. The Colonel promised that all expenses would be paid by Yugoslavia.

(The original report was in Serbian, which is the language used by
[] in dealing with []